

Husband: **WILLIAM CHEESEMAN¹**

Born: 1606 Beeston – Saint Lawrence, Norfolk, England
Married: 1627 England
Died: >1668 Middletown, Monmouth, East Jersey

Father: JOHN CHEESEMAN (1580 – ?)
Mother: CONSTANCE HORSLEY (1582 – ?)

Wife: **MARTHA DORSET**

Born: 1608 Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, England
Died: <1667 Middletown, Monmouth, East Jersey?

Father: JAMES DORSET (1582 – ?)
Mother: MARTHA

Issue:	Born:	Where:
1) REBECCA CHEESEMAN	1628	ENGLAND
2) MARY CHEESEMAN	1630	England
3) MARTHA CHEESEMAN	1632	England
4) CATHERINE CHEESEMAN	1634	England
5) WILLIAM CHEESEMAN	1636	England
6) JOHN CHEESEMAN	1638	England
7) JOSEPH CHEESEMAN	1640	England
8) BENJAMIN CHEESEMAN	1642	England
9) SAMUEL CHEESEMAN	1644	England

A significant minority of researchers name WILLIAM's birth place as Chesham in Buckinghamshire, England, which is the same place their future son-in-law JAMES GROVER, III was born. The majority consensus is the former parish of *Beeston-Saint Lawrence* in Ashmanhaugh civil parish in the North Norfolk District. Norfolk has four places with Beeston in their names. There is a second town in this district named *Beeston Regis*, which is in the civil parish of the same name. There two others in Norfolk: *Beeston* in the civil parish of Beeston with Bittering is in the Breckland District; it is also called *Beeston All Saints* and *Beeston-next-Mileham*; the fourth, *Beeston-Saint Andrew*, is a civil parish in the Broadland District. This is similar disagreements over localities on this side of the Atlantic. Some researchers place the family in New Jersey from the day they arrived until the end of their lives; others place them in Gravesend on Long Island where, in 1628, they claim REBECCA was born; both statements are wrong. The sole European settlement from 1607 to 1620 was the Virginia colony. All the published genealogies cited here give WILLIAM's year of death as 1753 which is incorrect as this would have him passing away 148 years after marrying! 1653 is too early for his death, as is 1644 for MARTHA; it is hard to estimate MARTHA's death since records concerning females are rare but WILLIAM was probably alive at least until 1668 though it is possible that the WILLIAM found in Middleton records in that year was their son.

The patent for the town of Gravesend on Long Island was issued in December 1645; the only inhabitant in these parts before this was ANTHONY JANSEN VAN SALÉE *the Turk* who had been “banished” from New Amsterdam in 1639.

A plausible explanation is that WILLIAM and JAMES GROVER were, at the least, acquainted in Chesham (they were only a year apart in age). When JAMES returned to Chesham, after traveling to the New World in the early 1640s, he brought with him a persuasive accounting of the possibilities there. Soon after marrying REBECCA, they set off for Hempstead, Long Island where they are among the original inhabitants in 1645. With this scenario, it is quite possible that WILLIAM and MARTHA moved to Gravesend at the same time or shortly after, though they have not been found in any record as residents in that town. But it does seem to be a trend: JAMES and REBECCA moved to Middletown, New Jersey in 1664 and WILLIAM and MARTHA soon appear in records of that place. SALTER states they were from Long Island and WILLIAM is found on a list of the inhabitants of Monmouth made prior to the expiration of the three-year period specified in the Patent.²

On 30 December 1667 WILLIAM received home lot and out-lot number 11 in the first division of Middletown into 36 lots. On 4 January 1668 the following ear mark was recorded for WILLIAM CHESMAN: *a square cutt outt of the fore part of the left eare*.³ WILLIAM CHEESEMANS is named as one of the founders of the Middletown Baptist Church which began operations in 1667 and was formally constituted in 1688. The first building was the Upper Meeting House at Baptisttown, now Holmdel, a few miles west of Middletown. WILLIAM is found in a list of residents, under the *townshipmen* classification, that are not current in their accounts to run the government drawn up on 6 July 1670 by the *Patentees & Deputies* at Portland Point.⁴

WILLIAM received a Warrant for 120 acres in Middletown on 20 September 1676 and possibly a second Warrant on 20 November. This possibility stems from the Survey for WILLIAM recorded in May 1677. The Survey was done on five parcels of land that encompassed 162 acres; the Survey makes mention of a Warrant issued on 20 November 1676. Since a husband and wife received 240 acres, it is possible that MARTHA died before the September 1676 Warrant was issued to WILLIAM. A patent issued to WILLIAM CHEESEMANS of *Midelton* was recorded on 12 June 1677 for 162 acres in 5 parcels.⁵ One Baptist historian maintains that the CHEESEMANS family settled west of Middletown, *past Baptisttown (Holmdel) in the Hightstown area and Upper Freehold and to the south in Jacobstown with members of the Coxe and Mount families*. He also states that 18 of the 24 original Monmouth Patentees were Baptists.⁶

He added to his land holdings after a patent for 24 acres in Middletown was issued to him on 15 January 1679 and the Survey for this tract, called Nutt Swamp, was recorded 4 November 1679. He received a Warrant for an additional 12 acres in Middletown recorded 29 May 1679.⁷

On 23 December 1685 the Proprietors issued a Warrant to WILLIAM CHEESEMANS of Middletown for 100 acres *at Naversinks*. Naversinks refers to the neck of land that Middletown was located on and was used generally to mean Middlesex Township which was the northern half of the Monmouth Patent. The Survey, recorded on 28 February 1688, states the tract was bordered on the west by unsurveyed land while on the north, east and south it was bordered by tracts owned by SAFETY GROVER and GEORGE MOUNT. On 1 May 1688 the Conveyance of this tract to WILLIAM by the Proprietors was recorded.⁸

On 5 March 1696 the ear mark for WILLIAM CHEESMAN was recorded in Middletown: *Square on the hind Side of the near ear and a half peney under the same*. This mark is not the same as

the one recorded in 1668; perhaps the earlier one was not specific enough. In the November 1698 accounting of the Middletown town clerk there is an entry stating that WILLIAM *CHEESEM*AN received 1£ 4s; if this is the subject he would've been 92 years old at the time.⁹

ISSUE:

The birth years noted are estimates using the technique of MR. JOHNSON, author of *The Descendants of JOHN CHEESEM*AN on rootsweb.com, using 1628 as REBECCA's year of birth. Specifically, he used a two-year-between births formula, which is a guess.

At least one son probably stayed on Long Island as their surname surfaces regularly in records, e.g. THOMAS CHEESMAN (b~1645 an unrecorded son? Can not be grandson as WILLIAM's eldest son was 9 yo in 1645); EPHRAIM CHEESEM

AN lived in Queen's County in 1744; BENJAMIN CHEESEMAN lived in the south end of North Hempstead near *Windmill Pond* in 1785; RICHARD CHEESEMAN served as the sheriff of Queens' County and his daughter MARY was married to a veteran of the *War of 1812*; a *CHEESEM*AN *INN* was in the North Hempstead area in 1821. See Poole Family Genealogy <http://www.antonymaitland.com/> for details on Hempstead Cheesman family: Thomas (b~1645) 5 sons:

1. Ephraim CHEESMAN b: BET. 1670 - 1673 in Hempsted, Long Island, New York
2. Richard CHEESMAN b: 9 NOV 1674 in Of Hempstead, Nassau, Long Island, New York. Richard moved to Monmouth (1720) then Gloucester County; he is not found in Monmouth Co records but is named in Gloucester Co deeds as Richard of Monmouth Co
3. William CHEESMAN b: ABT. 1675 in Hempsted, Long Island, New York
4. Samuel CHEESMAN b: ABT. 1680 in Hempsted, Long Island, New York
5. Benjamin CHEESMAN b: BEF. 1698

WILLIAM is the only son that has been found in Monmouth County, NJ records.

- 1) **REBECCA CHEESEM**AN: married **JAMES GROVER** around 1648. Their story is continued in a separate section.
- 5) **WILLIAM CHEESEM**AN, JUNIOR: wife CHARITY. Their farm was on *Wekake Creek* near Holmdel. The creek flows north from the Holmdel area through Raritan Township. WILLIAM signed his Will 1 May 1711 which was proved 6 September 1711. He made three bequests:
 - To wife CHARITY my house plus 50 acres and upon her death to go to my son WILLIAM provided he pay my son JOSEPH £ 80;
 - To wife CHARITY 4.5 acres of salt meadow at Wecack and upon her death to go to my son JOSEPH;
 - To son WILLIAM 140 acres at east end of Middletown plantation and 4.5 acres of salt meadow at Wecack provided he pay my outstanding bill with the merchant JOHN BROWNE. If he cannot pay the bill then my wife CHARITY is to sell enough of the property left to WILLIAM to pay the bill and the remainder is left to WILLIAM

The inventory, done by three men including WILLIAM LAWRENCE (JUNIOR), was filed 15

September 1711 and his estate was valued at £70 18s 6p:

• Pewter	02 02 00
• Bible and small book	00 06 00
• Cattle and household	68 10 06

The aforementioned bill owed to JOHN BOWNE was still unpaid five years later. JOHN BOWNE II lived in and had a store at Middletown, where he died circa 1715. His estate was proved 11 April 1716 and the file contains an inventory, probably from 1716, that lists 572 people who owed him money through bonds, mortgages, and store debt. WILLIAM CHEESEMAN owed over £37 for a bond and another debt.¹⁰

- a) JOSEPH CHEESEMAN: born 5 October 1705. His wife was named HENDRICKJE. Received 4.5 acres in father's will and £ 80 from brother WILLIAM upon death of their mother. JOSEPH wrote his Will on 28 April 1774; it was proved 1 May 1783 in Upper Freehold.¹¹ They had 4 daughters & one son:
 - i) LYDIA CHEESEMAN: married ___ MCCLAIN; moved to Fayette & Washington Co. PA
 - ii) CHARITY CHEESEMAN: born 13 March 1734. She married ___ GASTON, moved to Washington Co. PA
 - iii) ELIZABETH CHEESEMAN: never married, moved to Washington County, PA
 - iv) MARY CHEESEMAN: married ___ VAUGHN, moved to Washington County, PA
 - v) JOSEPH CHEESEMAN, JUNIOR: apparently had no issue.
- b) WILLIAM CHEESEMAN, III: received 144.5 acres in father's will and another 50 when his mother died. He is probably the WILLIAM CHEESEMAN who bought land on the south side of South River in Middlesex County from the widow of JOSEPH HUNTER which was recorded on 21 May 1723. He may have been 1 of the 436 subscribers to a statement published in the *New Jersey Gazette* in spring 1780 creating the *Associators of Retaliation* that would retaliate to any damages inflicted upon patriots by exacting damages, in equal measure, from any known Tory, refugee or *Pines Robber*.¹² Two other subscribers were JAMES and SAMUEL DORSET who may have been distant relatives. A Will signed by WILLIAM CHEESMAN, SR. of *New Brunswick Corporation*, Middlesex County on 3 December 1753 and proved 30 January 1759 could be his. Mentions wife MARTHA; children MARY, MARTHA, CATHERINE, WILLIAM, JOHN, JOSEPH, BENJAMIN, and SAMUEL; and grandchildren MARY and MARTHA, daughters of CHARITY and SAFETY BORDEN.¹³

NOTES:

Father: John Cheeseman (b. Middlesex County, New Jersey; married February 20, 1574/75; died 1753, Middlesex County – all highly suspect)

Abijah Cheeseman, b 1798? NJ mar ___ Shepherd; moved to Butler Co, OH – see bio in Hx of Butler Co downloaded into Lineages>Shepherd and Lineages>Cheeseman files

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- ¹ The following 2 sites at rootsweb.com have been the main source: *Descendants of John Cheeseman*; and *Descendants of James Dorset*; both lineages submitted by skywagon@earthlink.net. See also Rebecca Cheeseman, FamilySearch ID LL7S-LJQ, pedigree in Taylor lineage file, info in *italics*.
- ² Edwin Salter, *A History of Monmouth and Ocean Counties*, (Bayonne, NJ: F. Gardner & Son, Publishers; 1890)
- ³ Henry Lawrence Everett, *Old Middletown Town Book 1667 to 1700* (reprint; not dated). Most of the unreferenced land transactions, civil and military appointments, etc are from this source.
- ⁴ Monmouth County Deeds, Book A, pages 34, 35.
- ⁵ New Jersey Department of State Non-Governmental Records – East and West Jersey Proprietors database; Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856, 1, Folio 169; Liber II, Part 2, Folio 39. <http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catppropri.html>
- ⁶ Thomas S Griffiths, *A History of Baptists in New Jersey* (Bar Press Publishing Company: Hightstown, NJ; 1904) pp.15, 17, 18.
- ⁷ New Jersey Department of State Non-Governmental Records – East and West Jersey Proprietors database; Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856, Liber II, Part I, Folio 36; Liber II, Part II, Folios 106, 121. <http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catppropri.html>
- ⁸ New Jersey Department of State Non-Governmental Records – East and West Jersey Proprietors database; Department of State Secretary of State's Office Deeds, Surveys and Commissions, ca. 1650-1856, L(EJ), Folios 230, 231; C, Folio 50. <http://www.nj.gov/state/archives/catppropri.html>; additional reference is: Patents and Deeds of New Jersey, 1664-1703, East Jersey Deeds, Liber C, Page 134.
- ⁹ *op. cit.* Everett, *Old Middletown Town Book*, pp. 33, 35.
- ¹⁰ Karl Lemons, *John Bowne Will and Debtor List*, accessed 8 December 2017, https://www.wikitree.com/index.php?title=Space:John_Bowne_Will_and_Debtor_list.&public=1. See also John E. Stillwell, *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany Volume VI: Unrecorded Wills and Inventories Monmouth County New Jersey* (reprint Shrewsbury Historical Society; 1975) pp.25, 54, 55, 68. Digital copy available through FamilySeach.com.
- ¹¹ Monmouth County Wills, NJ Archives, Trenton; reference number 4997-5000-M.
- ¹² George C. Beekman, *Early Dutch Settlers of Monmouth County, New Jersey* (Freehold, NJ: Moreau Brothers Publishers; 1901) Appendix pages xvii - x.
- ¹³ *New Jersey Colonial Documents, First Series, Volume XXXII, Calendar of Wills and Administrations, Volume III 1751 – 1760* (1880) p. 58.